

Unusual landing of the spotted ocean triggerfish *Canthidermis maculata* at Cochin Fisheries Harbour

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Unusual landing of the ocean triggerfish *Canthidermis maculata* (Family: Balistidae) was observed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour (CFH) on 11th January 2013 (Fig 1a & b). About 300 kg of fishes were landed in gillnet operated off Cochin at a depth of 20- 30 m. The species is occasionally seen in stray numbers in trawl landings at CFH and this is for the first time a landing of this magnitude is observed at CFH. The fishes were sold at the landing centre @ ₹ 30 – 40/- per kg for local consumption.

The species has a circumglobal distribution except for Mediterannian and Western Pacific and inhabits shallow coastal and offshore waters. It is epipelagic nearly all throughout life, often associated with drifting objects and may occur in deep rocky slopes. The species appear to school in large numbers.

From the catch landed at CFH, fishes were randomly sampled and brought to the laboratory

and measured for total length as well as body weight and also analysed for maturity stage and gut contents. The fishes ranged between 290 – 375 mm in total length and between 0.5 – 1.1 kg in weight. In all the fishes examined, the stomach had very little amount of digested fish remains. Both male and female fishes examined were in the fully mature or spent condition.



Fig. 1a & b. *Canthidermis maculata* landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour